

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An audio output control apparatus in a mobile terminal having an MP3 player for reproducing MP3-formatted audio data into an audio signal, comprising:

an ear jack for transferring the audio signal output from the MP3 player to an audio output device being one of an earphone and an external speaker, connected thereto, and generating one of a high and low level voltage for indicating whether a connected audio output device is the earphone or the external speaker, respectively;

an ear jack connector being inserted in the ear jack and connecting the audio output device to the ear jack, the ear jack generating one of a high level voltage and a low level voltage upon insertion of the ear jack connector; and

a controller for determining the audio output device connected to the ear jack depending on the high or low level voltage and controlling an audio gain of the MP3 player according to the determined result.

2. (Currently Amended) The audio output control apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ear jack connector comprises one of a first ear jack connector connecting the earphone to the ear jack and a second ear jack connector connecting the external speaker to the ear jack ~~has at least two nodes for sensing connection to either the earphone or the external speaker.~~

3. (Original) The audio output control apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the controller increases the audio gain when the external speaker is connected to the ear jack, and the controller decreases the audio gain when the earphone is connected to the ear jack.

4. (Currently Amended) The audio output control apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ear jack generates the high level voltage upon insertion of the first ear jack

connector, and generates the low level voltage upon insertion of the second ear jack connector.
~~earphone includes a first ear jack connector connected to the ear jack for generating the first voltage, and the external speaker includes a second ear jack connector connected to the ear jack for generating the second voltage.~~

5. (Currently amended) A method for controlling an audio gain of an MP3 player in a mobile terminal having the MP3 player for reproducing MP3-formatted audio data into an audio signal, the mobile terminal including an ear jack, comprising the steps of:

connecting an audio output device to the ear jack via one of a first ear jack connector and a second ear jack connector during an operation of the MP3 player;

generating, at the ear jack, one of a high level voltage and a low level voltage upon insertion in the ear jack one of the first ear jack connector and the second ear jack connector, respectively, for indicating whether the audio output device is an earphone or an external speaker, respectively; and

controlling the audio gain of the MP3 player according to the generated high or low level voltage.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the controlling step comprises the steps of:

increasing the audio gain when the external speaker is connected to the ear jack; and
decreasing the audio gain when the earphone is connected to the ear jack.